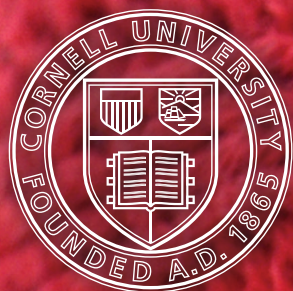


Annual Report 2011-2012

CORNELL FELINE HEALTH CENTER





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A Message FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I am happy to present a special double issue of the Feline Health Center's Annual Report. I am honored to follow in the footsteps of Drs. Fred Scott and Jim Richards, and the loyal support of FHC donors and friends has helped pave the way toward the future.



Dr. Colin Parrish with Mr. Orange

My first year and a half as Director have been both busy and exciting. During this time, we have significantly increased our investment in feline health research grants, hired Dr. Bruce Kornreich into the newly created role of Associate Director of Education and Outreach to help expand our outreach to cat owners and veterinarians, and also broadened the educational resources available through our website (www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc). We are also continuing to offer the very popular and helpful Camuti Consultation Service to cat owners who are seeking information about health issues affecting their beloved feline companions. Your support has been crucial to each of these initiatives. But there is still much work to be done.

In the next year, we look forward to additional improvements to and a major re-design of our website, offering new membership benefits, and streamlining and increasing our memorial program to more efficiently meet the needs of veterinarians and pet owners in honoring people and pets. You can also look forward to new educational resources, continued support of the next generation of feline practitioners, and further investigations into understanding genetic and acquired diseases that will lead to advances in feline health. With your loyal support, the Feline Health Center will continue to lead the way in improving the lives of cats everywhere.

Thank you so much.

Best regards,

Colin Parrish

Colin R. Parrish, PhD
Director, Cornell Feline Health Center



Teaching it FORWARD

Dr. Bruce Kornreich knows the value of good teachers. He's had them; people, he says, who have positively influenced the direction his life has taken. It's a debt of gratitude that he hopes to continue repaying in his new position as the Associate Director for Education and Outreach at Cornell's Feline Health Center. Since assuming the position in February 2012, he has helped advance the Center's historic focus on educational outreach and research that is dedicated to helping cats around the world.

"The Cornell Feline Health Center is preventing and curing diseases of cats, educating veterinarians and cat owners about feline health, and aiding veterinarians when new or unknown feline diseases occur," said Dr. Colin Parrish, director of the Baker Institute for Animal Health and the Feline Health Center. "In short, the Feline Health Center is dedicated to improving the health and welfare of cats. Education, outreach, and research are the pillars upon which this mission rests. Bruce brings expertise in all of these areas allowing us to advance the health and well-being of cats around the world."

In the newly created position, Bruce will develop educational programs and related materials for the world renowned Feline Health Center, including electronic and print media; implement strategic initiatives; provide information and news for cat owners and veterinarians; supervise the veterinary consultants of the Camuti Consultation service; and spend a portion of

his time continuing his clinical and teaching endeavors in the Cardiology unit of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals.

One of his immediate goals is to improve the recognition of the Feline Health Center by integrating all forms of communication, from educational materials to brochures to the web site and social media. In addition, Bruce will focus on developing stronger relationships between the Feline Health Center and the clinicians at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals, creating new opportunities for research, discovery, and improved understanding. Bruce has been "teaching it forward" for most of his career, working with students at all levels. While completing his residency in cardiology at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine, he received the Outstanding Resident Award. He has also earned Cornell's Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award in recognition of his work with the Cornell Cardiology Interest Group, a group of undergraduate students that he has mentored over the four years since its inception. In addition, he has lectured at local, regional, national, and international meetings on topics ranging from clinical cardiology to biophysics, speaking to audiences ranging from practicing veterinarians and veterinary students to basic scientists.

Bruce holds a bachelor's degree from SUNY Albany, a doctorate of veterinary medicine from Cornell and a PhD in pharmacology, also from Cornell. He is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in Cardiology, and is a member of the Journal of Veterinary Cardiology's review board. In his free time, Bruce enjoys spending time with his family, writing songs, playing basketball, and enjoying outdoor activities.

A Distinguished TEACHER

Each year, Pfizer Animal Health awards a faculty member of Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine with one of the highest honors that could be bestowed on a professor: the Distinguished Teacher Award. It is presented to a faculty member who has demonstrated leadership, character, and an exemplary ability to teach, as demonstrated by the caliber of instruction and responsiveness to the needs of students. The recipient must be a full-time member of the veterinary medical faculty, and nominations for this award are made by students in the professional education program.

Dr. Bruce Kornreich earned the 2012 Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award. A member of the Cornell community for nearly 25 years, he began as a veterinary student in 1988, completed a residency in cardiology, and later earned his doctorate in molecular biology. According to Eva Oxford DVM '12, who presented him with the honor at an awards ceremony earlier this year, Bruce is "one of the favorite faculty members at the College." Please enjoy the following excerpts from Dr. Oxford's presentation.

It is his generous, down-to-earth nature, and his seemingly effortless ability to always greet people with a smile that makes Dr. Kornreich such an approachable teacher. He is on a first-name basis with nearly everyone at the College, including the maintenance men and the occasional pizza-delivery boy. Dr. Kornreich is known for making himself very accessible to his students. Emails and cell phone calls (call anytime) are responded to promptly, and meetings often include Dr. Kornreich buying coffee for the students before discussing whatever questions are posed.

Dr. Kornreich also voluntarily offers rounds every Wednesday at 7:30 am. He begins with the basics of ECGs and echocardiograms and relates the principles to current hospital cases. Those who have attended these rounds can attest to the fact that they are the best teaching rounds offered by Cornell.

In a classroom setting, Dr. Kornreich is a lively and engaging lecturer. An avid musician, he often keeps the audience's attention by including quips about past and present rock stars, all the while discussing his true passion: cardiology. Outside of the classroom, Dr. Kornreich has a strong work ethic, leading research projects, working in the clinic, mentoring undergraduates as well as veterinary students, and more recently, helping to lead the Feline Health Center at Cornell University. His life always busy, often hectic.

However, he is careful to remind students that at the end of the day it is important to remember what you are working for. I'll never forget a conversation I had with Dr. Kornreich a couple of years ago about the stresses of veterinary school. I was complaining about the amount of studying I had to do, the difficulties of maintaining a decent GPA, and that it was hard to fit in a life with my husband. And so we talked about finding a balance in life. And Dr. Kornreich gave me some perspective. He told me that at the end of every day, you go home to the ones you love, and you realize what really matters; what brings true happiness to your life. And so everything else, the wonderful career, the comfortable salary, the awards, it's all icing on the cake. And with that conversation, I learned as much from Dr. Kornreich outside the classroom as I had from inside.

Dr. Bruce Kornreich wears many hats in his life: dedicated husband to his high school sweetheart, father of two wonderful children, researcher, cardiologist, teacher, and mentor. And he does everything well, and he does it with a smile. He seems to have found the secret to balancing life. And I'm learning that from him. And I think that I value that as much as the many other things I've learned from his lectures and his morning rounds.

And this is why I believe Dr. Kornreich is deserving of the Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award. Because as his student, I not only want to learn from him, I try to emulate him.

-Eva Oxford '12

Dr. Bruce Kornreich
Associate Director of Education and Outreach



Mildred G. Federico Scholarship

Established in 2004 by the Mildred G. Federico Trust, this scholarship is awarded to a deserving student who has a demonstrated financial need, has been judged by faculty to be in good standing academically, and has a demonstrated interest in feline medicine. Recipients are recommended by the director of the Community Practice Service in the Companion Animal Hospital, and approved by the Feline Health Center.

Federico Scholarship Recipients

- 2011 Nathan TompkinsClass of 2011
- 2012 Ilyssa Meren.....Class of 2013

Jessie D. and Denny W. Speidel Scholarship in Feline Medicine

The Speidel Scholarship, established by Patricia S. Cope '50 in honor of her parents, provides assistance to deserving veterinary students with demonstrated financial need. Preference is given to third- or fourth-year students in good standing academically, who exhibit an interest in feline medicine and who plan to pursue a career in the field. A related fund established by Ms. Cope provides scholarship recipients with additional support for textbooks and supplies.

Speidel Scholarship Recipients

- 2011 Tradel HarrisClass of 2011
- 2011 Ming LuiClass of 2011
- 2011 Jennifer BiasilloClass of 2012
- 2011 Michael Mastromauro ...Class of 2012
- 2012 Jennifer BiasilloClass of 2012
- 2012 Michael Mastromauro ...Class of 2012
- 2012 Laura Waite.....Class of 2013
- 2012 Amy WongClass of 2013

Feline Health Center Scholarship

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the Feline Health Center Scholarship has been awarded annually to a veterinary student with demonstrated financial need, who is in good standing academically and who has an identified interest in feline medicine. Preference is given to fourth-year veterinary students.

Feline Health Center Scholarship Recipients

- 2011 Christopher FryeClass of 2011
- 2012 Kristina Casper.....Class of 2012



Ilyssa Meren '13 | Scholarship Profile
BUSINESS SAVVY VET OF THE FUTURE

When Ilyssa Meren DVM '13 learned that she had been awarded the Federico Scholarship from the Feline Health Center, she could have chosen to buy a car. She could have looked into a bigger apartment for her and her two cats. Instead, she contacted her student loan lender and canceled some of her loans so that she borrowed the least amount possible.

This responsible business acumen is probably what led her to the national level of the Veterinary Business Management Association, where she recently served as the compliance chair. During her 18-month tenure in this position, she helped organize the group's participation at a major veterinary conference and monitored chapter activity to document event activity.

"Our goal is to make sure students are business savvy," said Ilyssa, explaining that the organization offers a business certificate program. "We graduate completely competent in veterinary medicine, but often some life and business skills were lacking. Our programs help students understand how to manage money wisely, work with employees, present a professional image, and a variety of other business-related topics."

Ilyssa's number one focus, though, is becoming the best veterinarian she can be. Her interest stems from her experiences with childhood epilepsy, a condition that resulted in a close relationship with her pediatric neurologist.

"It marked who I am as a person and what I am like," said Ilyssa, who has outgrown the condition. "I thought my doctor was amazing. He kept me seizure free."

The realization that being a pediatric neurologist meant her professional options were limited to that specialty drove her to look for other ways to engage with medicine on a professional level.

"I didn't want to be pigeon-holed," said Ilyssa, who demonstrates her commitment to the whole profession with her participation in a long list of clubs and activities at the College, including the Feline Club, Pedal for Pets, and the Rural Area Veterinary Services program. "With veterinary medicine, I can diagnose and treat many species. Specializing as a veterinary neurologist would not preclude me from engaging in other aspects of the veterinary profession, maybe helping at spay/neuter clinics for example. This was very attractive to me and was by far the best decision I've ever made."

Another on her list of best decisions was her move to adopt a cat. Ilyssa said that she never expected to fall so in love with the mysterious creatures.

"There's something about cats that I just never knew," said Ilyssa, noting that she grew up with dogs. "They're interesting animals. Unlike dogs, they're not outwardly affectionate, but they certainly know my moods, and they definitely need my attention. It's a mutual need, though: at the end of a long day on clinics, they're nice to come home to."

Laura Waite '13 | Scholarship Profile
FROM PERSONALITY TO PASSION

For Laura Waite '13, her choices have been a series of intermediary steps on the way to “life.” She’s known forever that she wanted to be a veterinarian. Now, in her final year of veterinary school at Cornell, she’s almost there.

“I can’t be a student much longer,” joked Laura. “I am so ready to have a career and to be surrounded by my family again!”

Her future life, as Laura describes it, will revolve also around veterinary medicine, a profession known as much for its compassionate care-givers as for the practical advice they typically offer animal owners. It’s a perfect match for Laura, who works hard to avoid pretense, airs, and all things unnecessary. For instance, as a Speidel Scholarship winner, Laura used the support to move her closer to earning her degree: textbooks, clothes suitable for clinical rotations, and an online preparatory course for the board examinations.

Anxious to put all of these tools – and the knowledge she gained by leading and participating in various clubs at the College of Veterinary Medicine – to use, the Lockport, NY, native hopes to join a small animal practice in Western New York after graduation. She is excited to learn the art of being a general practitioner, leaving behind specialty medicine for now. Again, this is just one more step on life’s path. With an entrepreneurial father as a role model, Laura aspires to someday own her own companion animal practice. Most likely, she said, it will be a primary practice, although Laura also expressed fondness for the specialties of dentistry and behavior, both of which, she feels, can be overlooked far too often.

“I love animals,” said Laura, who grew up with her grandmother’s farm animals as well as the more typical coterie of dogs and cats. “The opportunity to educate people about what I love, so that their pets will be healthier and happier because they [owners] know how to best care for them, is very special to me.”

Also special to Laura are nature and the arts, noting keen interests in camping, Frisbee golf, music festivals, photography, and painting with acrylics. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Findlay, of Findlay, Ohio, where she majored in Biology and Pre-Veterinary Medicine and minored in Chemistry.



Christopher Frye '11 | Scholarship Profile
FUELING THE MODERN STUDENT

For Chris Frye DVM '11, earning the Feline Health Center scholarship was both a note of encouragement and fuel to keep going.

“It was a sign that people believed in me and my decisions,” said Frye, who decided to become a veterinarian after teaching sixth grade science and environmental biology. “Receiving the scholarship meant that someone was looking out for me, which I appreciated, and that people thought I was doing a good job. Beyond the endorsement, though, it also encouraged me to work harder. I needed to make sure that I believed I deserved it, too.”

And deserve it he did. A model student, Frye also excelled outside of the classroom. He founded the Veterinary Education Club and was a member of the Feline Club. In addition, he was very involved with shelter medicine activities and worked closely with Dr. Paul Maza on various trap, neuter, and release programs for feral cats.

His experiences with Drs. Janet Scarlett, Elizabeth Berliner, and Maza helped to shape his career path, and he says, he works every day to do their teaching justice. As an associate with the Mendon Village Animal Hospital in upstate New York, he works with two feline rescue groups. In this capacity, he cares for individual cases and also works at the population level, encouraging preventative medicine and appropriate use of antibiotics.

“I gained an appreciation for the mission of shelter medicine, for the value that it brings to society and to the lives of homeless animals, while I was at Cornell,” said Frye. “It’s rewarding to help all animals, and I thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to work with clients educating them about the health of their pet and disease processes, but it’s especially rewarding to care for an animal that doesn’t have someone looking after him.”

Frye grew up in New Hampshire, where he developed a love of the outdoors. An eager hiker, he enjoys scaling the occasional mountain and walking his dog. Frye chose Cornell for his veterinary studies from a list of acceptances because, he said, of its welcoming atmosphere, adding that it didn’t hurt that his great-grandfather also graduated from Cornell’s veterinary college. Once on campus, he found Cornell’s environment to be stimulating and supportive, and he appreciated the close-knit community and personal connections he was able to make with faculty and friends—including his fiancée who he met while on a run with Maza. Frye and classmate Elisha Blond were married this past summer.



Dr. Chris Frye with Tesla



Dr. Louis J. Camuti Memorial
FELINE CONSULTATION SERVICE



Joey was a perplexing case. As a newborn kitten, she was healthy, eating just as voraciously as her siblings. But by the age of just seven weeks, the tiny Tonkinese kitten couldn't keep anything down. As the kitten became increasingly skinny, breeder Jill Murphy consulted with local veterinarians, discussed the situation with other breeders, and then reached out to the Dr. Louis J. Camuti Memorial Feline Consultation Service at Cornell's Feline Health Center.

"The telephone service was fabulous," said Jill. "Dr. Englar researched several options, some that were recently identified, and then advised that I talk to my veterinarian about doing an X-ray to see if anything was blocking the esophagus. We did this, saw the blockage, and did surgery that saved her life."

Dr. Englar readily says cats are one of the most brilliant species alive, and is just one of the veterinarians who staff the consultation service at Cornell. She is proud to help cat owners understand diagnoses and treatment plans, think through options for moving forward, and prepare for conversations

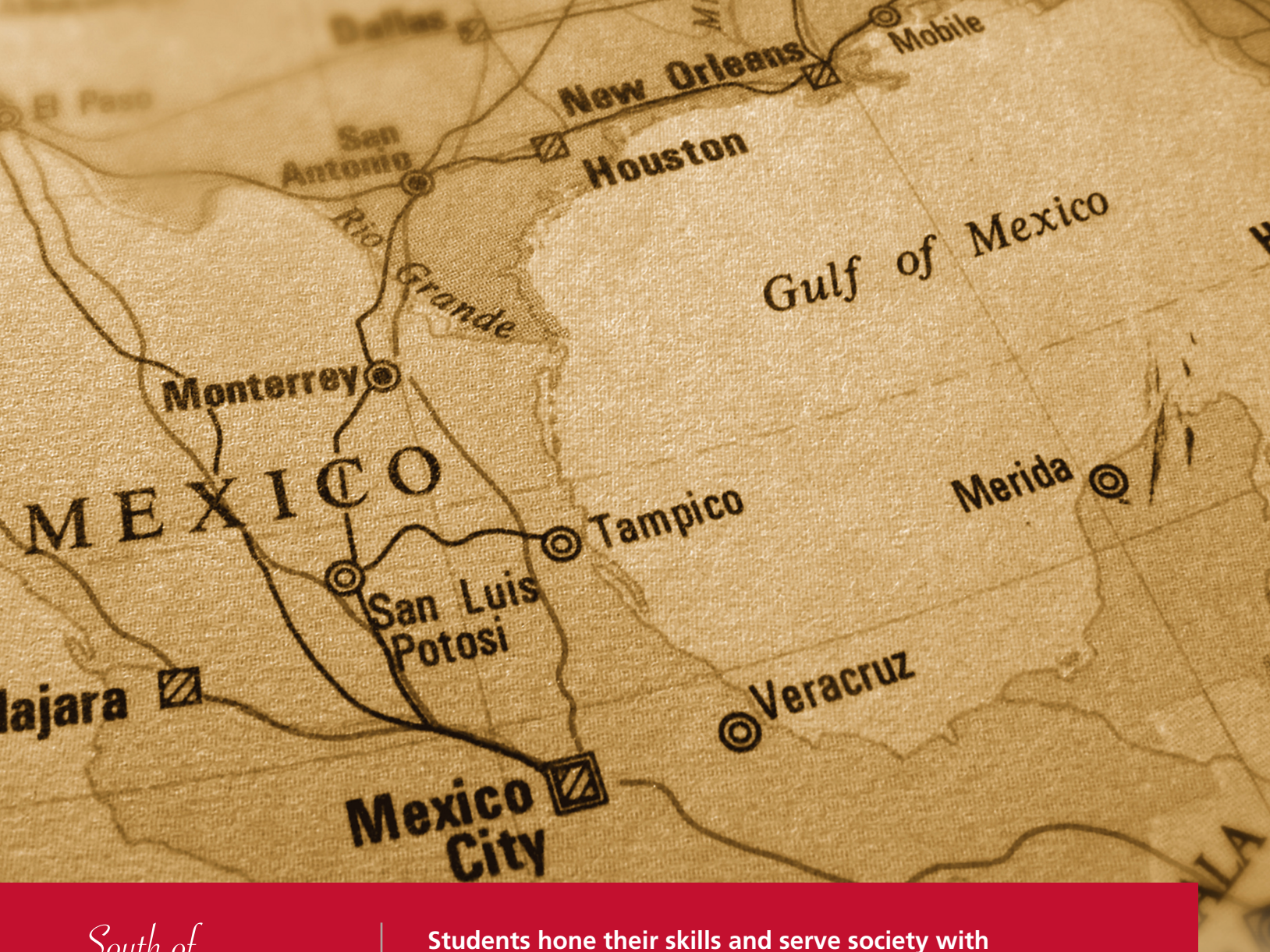
with their veterinarians about next steps. The Consultation Service was established to honor the memory of the late Dr. Louis J. Camuti. Known affectionately to many as "the Cat Doctor," Dr. Camuti was the first veterinarian in the United States to devote his entire practice to cats.

"Joey's case was particularly rewarding to me — a feel-good moment at the Consultation line," said Dr. Englar, who owns Tonkinese cats herself. "We were able to turn a grim situation into something we could do something about -- and save a life at the same time!"

Dr. Englar is drawn to the Consultation line because of positive outcomes as with Joey's story. As she says, "Our role as consultants is to facilitate discussion based on client concerns that will ultimately translate into improved patient care."

Veterinarians are available to handle incoming cases received through the Consultation Service on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9am to noon and from 2pm to 4pm ET, with some exceptions for holidays. For more information on the service, please visit www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc/camuti.cfm.





South of THE BORDER

Students hone their skills and serve society with
new program launched in Mexico

It's easy to talk about problems that need fixing. It's especially easy to assume that someone else will fix them. Taking responsibility can be a different story, unless you happen to be Cornellians passionate about putting a dent in pet overpopulation.

In June, seven Cornell students and one fellow veterinary student from the University of Guelph headed to Mexico through the newly launched ShelterVet program. The result, according to one of the program's founders, Dr. Paul Maza, was a win-win scenario for all involved: students were provided with multiple opportunities to hone their primary care and spay/neuter surgical skills and the pet population control efforts in Mexico received much-needed assistance.

ShelterVet is an offshoot of MarVet, a program that trains veterinary students in marine animal medicine. Designed to emphasize the significance of companion animal medicine and population control in countries outside the U.S., ShelterVet explores the well-being of the animals themselves, public health, and the health of the ecosystem as exploding feral populations of companion species threaten surrounding natural ecosystems and the wild species that are native to the environment.

"Under the direction of Dr. Maza, ShelterVet 2011 in Mexico was particularly successful, and represents the first time that this workshop has been conducted independently as a stand-alone initiative," said Dr. Raymond J. Tarpley, an associate professor at Texas A&M University and founder of MarVet. "We particularly appreciate the grant support we received from

Cornell's Feline Health Center, which permitted an expansion of ShelterVet's impact in Mexico. We look forward to possibilities for conducting ShelterVet in other venues that introduce veterinary students to global conservation medicine and the contribution our profession can make in under-served regions of the world."

This year, ShelterVet collaborated with CoCo's Cat Rescue in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico, to set up and run a spay and neuter clinic. During the five-day experience, students spent two days at Tierra De Animales, a dog rescue facility in Cancun, doing physical examinations, vaccinations, baths, parasite control, and other medical treatments for more than 100 dogs. During the final three days, students ran a surgical clinic at CoCo's, where they treated several animals with life-threatening infected uteri and other animals that were infested with parasites and dehydrated from viruses.

"The interactions between the Cornell team and the medical staffs in Mexico were very important," said Paul. "This was new territory. We weren't sure what to expect in terms of language barriers and receptiveness. We found genuine enthusiasm and excellent teachers who were impressed with level of medical and surgical competence, collegiality, and professionalism that the student team demonstrated."

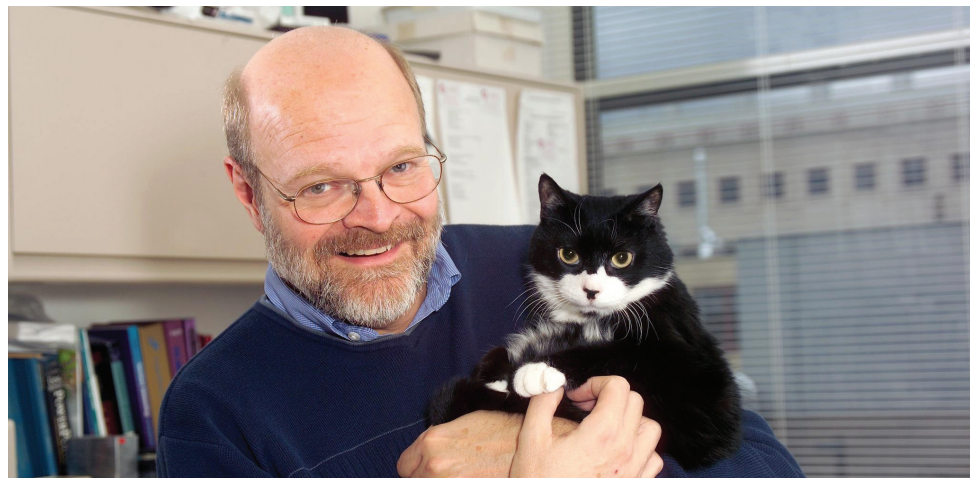


A win-win scenario for all involved: students were provided with multiple opportunities to hone their primary care and spay/neuter surgical skills and the pet population in Mexico received much-needed assistance.



In the Steps of DR. RICHARDS

Dr. Jim Richards with Dr. Mew



2011 Dr. Jim Richards Cornell Feline Health Center Veterinary Issues Award Selected

Congratulations to cat-writer Kim Campbell Thornton, whose article, "The Pill," won the 2011 Dr. Jim Richards Cornell Feline Health Center Veterinary Issues Award. Administered by the Cat Writers Association (CWA), the award encourages and inspires writers to tackle difficult stories on the topics of technological or medical advances, research, or innovations in feline veterinary medicine.

Kim Campbell Thornton is a former editor of Dog Fancy magazine and the award-winning author of more than two dozen books and hundreds of articles on pet care, health, and behavior. She has served as president of the CWA and its current vice president.

"The author does an excellent job of providing a unique perspective to the pet overpopulation problem and the increased efforts and research to develop an effective one-time contraceptive is a revolutionary approach," said Dr. Heather Roberts, Dean of Sciences and Math at Sierra College, who judged the contest. "I was drawn into the article by the author's dynamic writing style. She presented recent history and future directions for a development of this concept. BRAVO!"

The award has a special history tied to Cornell's Feline Health Center and its former director, Dr. Jim Richards. Jim served as a mentor and an inspiration to cat-writer Amy Shojai. Building her writing career with Jim's support, Amy later founded CWA, an organization dedicated to providing news, information, and education on all aspects of cat care and welfare, and to improving the quality of writing about cats.

Jim continually contributed by offering information, mentorship, and encouragement to many of CWA's members and by funding the Cornell Feline Health Center Veterinary Issues Award. When Jim died in a tragic accident while trying to save a cat's life, the award was renamed in his honor.

"Jim gave me my cat-writing career," wrote Amy in an article honoring her mentor. "I met him in person for the first time when he delivered the keynote address at the 2004 CWA Writers Convention. He validated us all that night, explaining that yes, indeed, what we do as cat writers is important. That we can change the world for cats, for the people who love them, and even for others we'll never know."

Feline Health Center GRANTS

The Cornell Feline Health Center's Research Grants Program provides funding to encourage and support investigation of feline health issues including, but not limited to, infectious and congenital diseases, reproduction and contraception, behavior, and maintenance of optimal health. Research conducted at the College of Veterinary Medicine and funded by the FHC's competitive grants help fulfill our mission: to improve the health and well-being of cats everywhere by finding ways of preventing and curing diseases of cats, educating veterinarians and cat owners about feline health, and aiding veterinarians and cat owners when new or unknown feline diseases occur. FHC grants are helping to lead Cornell's world-class researchers to important discoveries about some of the most important health issues affecting cats and the human companions who love them.

Dr. Vicki Meyers-Wallen | Grants Profile QUELLING THE TIDE OF OVERPOPULATION

The wave of tragedy continues to rise: every day another 70,000 kittens and puppies are born in the US, overflowing the nation's shelters and streets and breaking the hearts of animal lovers. The dream of a long-term solution to pet overpopulation has remained unrealized, but an all-star faculty team is working to change that.

"We're interested in developing something to really help control feral populations of cats," said Dr. Vicki Meyers-Wallen, a reproductive specialist at Baker Institute for Animal Health. "Cats are incredibly reproductively efficient; it's hard to make an impact with spaying alone. A safe sterilizing vaccine for both males and females could rapidly reduce feral cat populations and significantly improve their welfare worldwide."

Dr. Meyers-Wallen has assembled an interdisciplinary team of faculty from the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Engineering at Cornell, including Drs. Scott Coonrod, Colin Parrish, David Putnam, Donald Schlafer, Janet Scarlett, Alexander Travis, and Judith Appleton. Pooling their combined expertise in reproductive functions, population health, gene expression, bioengineering, and vaccine construction and efficacy analysis, these co-investigators are working towards a sterilizing vaccine that would enlist a cat's own immune system to help humanely curb overpopulation.

Normally, immune systems ignore reproductive hormones and proteins because they're part of oneself. But when one of these proteins is attached to a virus-like particle in a vaccine it may be labeled an "enemy" by association, encouraging the immune system to silence it. There are already sterilizing vaccines that work this way in other species.

This team, aided by funding from the Feline Health Center, is developing six candidate vaccines by attaching reproductive peptides or proteins to canine parvovirus capsid virus-like particles, which alarm the immune system but are harmless in cats. The team is presently testing two: gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH), a peptide that both males and females need to reproduce, and maternal-anti-gen-that-embryos-require protein (MATER), a female-specific protein. Vaccine testing has begun, with researchers looking for a safe and effective formulation that can be tested in cats in the future.

"Our findings might also apply to vaccine formulation for other species, such as deer or dogs, in which population control is desirable," said Dr. Meyers-Wallen. "That could help curb disease transmission from animals to people. A successful sterilizing vaccine could be a major contribution to cat health as well as dog health and public health worldwide." And a reduction in the number of feral cats fighting for survival and shelters not overflowing with cats in need of homes will warm the hearts of cat-lovers everywhere.



Dr. Gary Whittaker | Grants Profile

FELINE INFECTION PERITONITIS:
GOOD NEWS MAY BE ON THE HORIZON

What makes a harmless virus turn deadly? This question is at the heart of Dr. Gary Whittaker’s research into feline infectious peritonitis (FIP), a clinically dramatic and often fatal condition. FIP develops when feline enteric coronavirus (FECV), a common benign virus in cats’ intestines, mutates into a new malignant form (FIPV). This mutant hijacks white blood-cells to travel through the body and propagate, causing symptoms from fever, lethargy, weight loss, and respiratory problems to eye lesions and neurologic abnormalities. Young cats and those with compromised immune systems are particularly vulnerable.

Though FIP is still relatively uncommon, up to 90 percent of cats in multiple-cat environments continue to be infected with benign FECV, making the disease particularly problematic in shelters. Diagnosis is difficult, and no effective therapies have yet been identified despite continued investigation.

Dr. Gary Whittaker has spent the last four years working to uncover the molecular mechanics of these viruses with the hope of developing diagnostics and therapies. His studies are beginning to reveal some of the key mutations that turn FECV into the pathogenic FIPV.

“Comparing viral genetics from the samples we receive from infected cats is starting to show what exactly changes during the FIPV mutation,” said Dr. Whittaker. “Knowing these changes will [allow us to develop much better tools for] diagnosing FIPV in cats.”

He is also learning how FIPV gets into the cells it infects and is looking for ways to block its entry. His lab discovered that FIPV invades using receptor proteins called C-Type lectins on the surface host cells. However, recent work revealed that these receptors are only half the story — another receptor protein likely plays the main part of the “lock” FIPV picks to gain entry. Dr. Whittaker is currently investigating the likely receptors, focusing on a protein called fAPN.

To hijack a white blood-cell, FIPV must not only break in but also activate it to do the virus’s bidding. The viral genetics study has implicated three proteins (proteases that activate the virus) in white blood-cells which FIPV may be using to spark the ignition.

“This is good news because there are already cancer therapies out there that work by blocking these particular proteases,” said Dr. Whittaker. “If we can repurpose such existing therapies to combat FIPV, we may reach a viable treatment far earlier than we would by developing an entirely new drug.” This is, indeed, good news in the fight against a deadly disease.

For more information on this FHC-sponsored research and how you, as a veterinarian, can continue to help by submitting samples, please contact Gary at fcovstudy@cornell.edu.



Dr. Dan Fletcher | Grants Profile

TAKING A BITE OUT
OF BLOOD CLOTS

A big heart can be a big problem for cats. Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), the number-one feline heart disease, affects one in 20 cats and even more of certain breeds, causing the left side of the heart muscle to grow too thick. This can lead to problematic blood clots, which HCM cats have trouble breaking down. There is no known cause or cure for the disease, and current treatments for preventing clots in cats with HCM have not been proven effective.

With financial assistance from the Feline Health Center’s grants program, a team of researchers at Cornell University Hospital for Animals (CUHA) is exploring a novel, easy way to ward off clotting through simple dietary changes.

“We see so many cats suffering from HCM, and if we can develop an effective therapy for preventing the dangerous clotting HCM can cause it would have a dramatic impact on feline health,” said Dr. Dan Fletcher, Emergency and Critical Care specialist at CUHA. “In people, Omega-3 fatty acids have been shown to help keep blood clots from forming and increase the body’s ability to break them down when they do. We hope that feeding cats with diets rich in Omega-3s will help ward off the dangerous effects of clotting in cats with HCM.”

Dr. Fletcher’s team is testing this theory in healthy cats whose owners volunteer to feed them a commercial Omega-3-enriched diet. After introducing the diet, researchers measure its effects on processes crucial to clotting as well as those responsible for breaking down clots. The study includes both traditional blood tests and a new test Fletcher designed using a technique that has been used in humans for years but never before in animals.

“This study will be a crucial first step towards addressing this feline health problem,” said Fletcher. “We expect it to lead to the design of a prospective clinical trial evaluating the efficacy of this dietary intervention for reducing the risk of clotting in cats with HCM.”



Dr. Kelly Hume | Grants Profile
CHEMOTHERAPY: KNOWING THE ODDS

Having a clear picture of treatment options is one of the best things an owner can do for an ailing pet, but sometimes the odds are not clear. As many long-time Feline Health Center supporters likely know from Dr. Jim Richards' work, cats are particularly prone to injection-site sarcomas (ISS), tumors that can grow around where certain type of shots or vaccines have been administered. Surgery and radiation can help, but many tumors grow back after treatment. Chemotherapy can curb tumor growth following or in place of other therapies, but many tumors resist the drugs, and there is currently no way of knowing whether they will work on any particular tumor.

Dr. Kelly Hume, oncologist at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals (CUHA) is exploring why some tumors shrink with chemotherapy and others don't, as well as methods for identifying those tumors that will respond to chemotherapy.

"We want to be able to direct individual patients to the therapies that are most likely to work for them," said Dr. Hume. "The chance that any given feline ISS tumor will shrink with chemotherapy is about 30%. Finding a way to predict an individual patient's chances can help spare cats from undergoing rigorous and expensive treatment that won't actually help them while helping to identify patients whose chances are good."

Chemotherapy drugs work by damaging the DNA of tumor cells to stop them from growing and multiplying. But cells come equipped with an internal system designed to fix the mistakes and allow the cell to heal. Hume believes that chemotherapy-resistant tumors will have cells with alterations in this system, which may be particularly good at overcoming DNA damage and continuing to proliferate.

With samples donated by CUHA clients with ISS-afflicted cats, Dr. Hume is growing several tumor cell lines in her lab. To test their response to chemotherapy drugs, she is measuring the quality and levels of their repair proteins. This allows her to determine how abnormal expression of these proteins affects the cells' response to chemotherapy.

If you have a cat with ISS and would like to contribute a sample, contact Dr. Kelly Hume at krh73@cornell.edu. The study, with assistance from FHC donors, pays for biopsy, bloodwork, and chest X-rays.



When Cancer Strikes
OUR MOST COMMON COMPANION

The difference between dogs and cats with cancer

During the 23rd Annual Fred Scott Feline Symposium, the James R. Richards Jr. Memorial Feline Lecture was delivered by Dr. Barbara Kitchell. The Lecture was established to honor the outstanding contributions that the late Dr. James R. Richards Jr. made to the field of feline medicine to improve the health and well-being of cats everywhere.



Dr. Kitchell spoke on the difference between dogs and cats with cancer, explaining that "cats are not small dogs and perhaps this is nowhere better evident than in the cancers that arise in the cat, the biologic behavior of those tumors, and the peculiarities of feline metabolism as regards cancer therapies. Cats may have less or more aggressive malignancies of organ or tissue sites when compared to dogs, and individualization of feline care is important to successful outcomes."

Unfortunately, though, despite the fact that cats are our most common companion animal, research into feline issues—including cancer—has lagged behind canine research, according to Dr. Kitchell. This is due to several reasons, she said, including the lack of genomic data and feline specific antibodies for investigation, as well as a general perception that information about the domestic cat will not provide information that is also relevant to other species.

During her presentation, Dr. Kitchell explained various types of tumors, syndromes, and tolerance levels for chemotherapy, explaining that some of the tumors that arise in cats are more likely malignant than benign when compared to the histologic counterpart diseases in dogs. For example, skin tumors are typically 60 percent malignant in cats as compared to a malignancy rate of 30 percent in dogs. Similarly, 90 percent of feline mammary tumors are likely to be malignant as compared to 50 percent of canine mammary tumors.

Dr. Kitchell graduated from Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1979. She completed an internship at the University of Minnesota and a residency in Small Animal Medicine at UC Davis. In 1985, she started an oncology referral center at California's Special Veterinary Services and received a Ph.D. degree with emphasis in Cancer Biology from the Department of Comparative Pathology at UC Davis in 1994. In addition, Dr. Kitchell completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Comparative Medicine, Stanford Medical School. In 1994 she became Assistant Professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine, University of Illinois School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Kitchell joined the faculty of Michigan State University in 2004, where she is now Director of the Center for Comparative Oncology. An ACVIM diplomate in the specialties of Internal Medicine and Oncology, she has received numerous awards including the National Cancer Institute Physician Scientist Award, the Dean's Postdoctoral Fellowship Award at Stanford, and the Gaines Cycle "Golden Fido" award for Veterinarian of the Year in 1993. She is currently president of the Veterinary Cancer Society and is the author of numerous scientific publications and chapters.

23rd Annual
FELINE
SYMPOSIUM
IN REVIEW

More than 145 cat enthusiasts attended the 23rd Annual Fred Scott Feline Symposium, held at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine in July 2011. Coming from 19 states, Canada, and New Zealand, the participants were treated to presentations that provided information and updates on feline oncology, oral infections and other infectious diseases, and behavioral issues.

In addition to the James R. Richards Jr. Memorial Feline Lecture offered by Dr. Barbara Kitchell, the Symposium featured presentations by Drs. Ralph Henderson, Michelle Bamberger, Pamela Perry, Cheryl Balkman, Jennifer Rawlinson, Andrea Looney and parasitologist Dr. Dwight Bowman.

Dr. Henderson presented two sessions. In the first, he explained how various treatments interact when used in combination, focusing on surgery, radiation, chemioimmunotherapy, and alternative therapy as they relate to malignant neoplasia. His second presentation also explored neoplasms (abnormal growths of tissue), explaining how several elements of feline surgical oncology are different from the dog. Emphasizing the unique needs of cats as surgical patients, Dr. Henderson also shared information about wound healing and injection site sarcomas.

Drs. Bamberger and Perry discussed a variety of behavior issues. Dr. Bamberger offered several reasons why cats might become aggressive. For instance, she said, cats might become offensive because of a lack of socialization, the onset of pain, discomfort with petting, external stimuli that prompt feelings such as fear or territorialness, or innate instincts related to survival and care-giving. Dr. Perry presented options for addressing aggression as well as other unwanted behaviors, including inappropriate elimination.

In her presentation entitled "Supportive Care for the Feline Patient with Cancer," Dr. Balkman shared common clinical signs associated with a variety of cancers, including anorexia or decreased appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, and weight loss, and provided a brief overview of some common issues associated with treating cats with cancer.

Calling Feline Gingivostomatitis (infection of the mouth and gums that leads to swelling and sores) an "overlooked disease," Dr. Rawlinson shed new light on the condition, with information about its capacity to destroy connective tissue, various stages, and possible treatment options, which can range from maintaining oral health at home to surgical extractions. Illustrating her presentation with various radiographs of a typical case, Dr. Rawlinson also shared tips for post-operative care.

Also overlooked, according to Dr. Bowman, are three parasites that frequently take up residence in the feline lung. Noting that there are only five states where dogs have a higher percentage of testing positive for heartworms than do cats and citing a variety of research about heartworms, roundworms, and lungworms as well as the amount of lung disease associated with heartworms and lungworm, Dr. Bowman made a strong case for year-round heartworm and broad spectrum parasite control in cats.

Finally, Dr. Looney shared new insights on controlling our cats' pain. Beginning with updated definitions of acute and chronic pain, Dr. Looney discussed the immediate and long-term effects of treating pain, how to assess pain, and effective drugs and other options for controlling pain. She also offered her thoughts on why cats are undertreated, citing a difficulty in recognizing signs of pain, a limited number of analgesics and a fear of adverse side effects, and a lack of published information. In her second session, Dr. Looney discussed how to assess the pain associated with veterinary oncology and options for treatments. Beginning with where oncologic pain originates, Dr. Looney shared the Edmonton Staging System for Cancer Pain, acute and chronic care management, and typical cancer pain relief agents.

The Symposium was clearly an engaging and entertaining mix of information, innovation, and interaction with experts in the fields of feline medicine and research!



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Ms. Elizabeth N. Allred

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Mr. William D. Bastow

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Dr. Peter W. Bloch

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Mr. Michael Briggs, Jr.

Mr. Richard L. Canel

Drs. John L. and Ruth C. Carter

Mr. Theodore Chu

Mr. Oliver and Mrs. Diane Crain

Mr. Barry and Mrs. Sylvia D'Aprix

Mr. Elspeth de Barros

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Ms. Rachele DiTullio

Ms. Martha Jane Dodge

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Mr. Clinton and Mrs. Lois Janes

Ms. Leanna J. Jensen

Dr. Wilma T. Joyce

Dr. Audrey A. Kelleman and Mr. Lucas Beerepoot

Dr. James and Mrs. Deborah Krepp
Mr. Scott A. Kronland and Ms. Eileen Goldsmith

Ms. Alison Kruk

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Ms. Claire Wichrowski

Ms. Susie Woltkamp

**Clinic and Hospital
Memorial Gift Program***

Adirondack Animal Hospital, Dr. James R. Glendening

Dr. Allan J. Ahearne

Albuquerque Cat Clinic, Inc.

All Cats Healthcare Clinic, Patti Gordon,
DVM

Honor Roll
OF GIVING 2012

All Cats Hospital

Dr. Terry J. Allen

Alliance Springfield, LLC., Springfield Animal Hospital

Alpha Animal Health

American Society of Mech Engrs

Animal Clinic of Mount Vernon, Dr. Alan S. Meyer

Animal General

Animal General LLC., Dr. Steve C. Feldman

Animal Hospitable Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Teresa Labuszewski

Animal Hospital of Kent, Dr. Mark I. Feldman

Animal Hospital of Niskayuna, Dr. Ronald A. Scharf

Animal Hospital of Pittsford, Dr. Paul R. Black

Animal Hospital of Walnut, Dr. Damon R. Goldstein

Animal Hospital of Woodstock

Animal Medical Center of Cummings, Dr. Mike McLaughlin

Animal Medical of New City, Dr. Howard J. Gittelman
Ardda Animal Hospital, Dr. James P. Kutrybala

Arlington South Vet. Hospital

Aspetuck Animal Hospital, LLC., Dr. Michael F. Gorra and Dr. Trisha Grinell

Baldwin Animal Hospital & Bird Clinic, Dr. Neal Saslow

Bayshore Animal Hospital, John R. Bass,
DVM

Bloomsburg Veterinary Hospital

Bolton Veterinary Hospital

Brighthouse Holdings LLC.

Brockton Animal Hospital, Dr. Ronald Hirschberg

Brook Farm Veterinary Center, Dr. D. Evan Kanouse

Burlington Veterinary Center, Dr. Richard K. Esherick

Burrstone Animal Hospital, Dr. Eldredge and Dr. Thompson

* The Honor Roll includes donors of \$250+ during the fiscal year (July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012).

* All Clinic & Hospital Gifts during the fiscal year are included.

Honor Roll
OF GIVING 2012

Canfield Veterinarian, Dr. Patricia A. Tolchin
Cape Ann Veterinary Hospital, Drs. Jeffery and Barbara French
Dr. Kathy Ann Carlson
Cat Care Clinic
Cat Care Clinic, Dr. Jane E. Liller
Cat Care Clinic of Ormond Beach
Cat Care Hospital, Nathan F. Baxter
Cat Care Hospital, P.C.
Cat Care Veterinary Clinic
Cat Care, P.C.
Cat Clinic of Greensboro, P.A., Dr. Elizabeth Eilers
Cat Doctor S.C., Dr. Kathryn L. Christensen
Cat Doctor, Dudan M. Szczotka, DVM
Cat Doctor, Inc., Drew D. Weigner, DVM
Cat Hospital at Towson, LLC
Cat Hospital of Chicago, P.C.
Cat Hospital of Petaluma, Inc.
Cat Practice, Ltd., Dr. Lori L. Coughlin
Cat Sense Feline Hospital and Boarding, Inc.
Cat Specialist P.C.
Cats Exclusive Veterinary
Cats Love Housecalls, Dr. Cecilia Burnside
Cats Only Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Gloria Leopard
Central Virginia Veterinary Associates, Dr. Samuel Baum
Centreville Animal Hospital, Dr. Fred G. Garrison
Dr. Eric P. Chafetz
Chartiers Animal Hospital, Ltd., Mr. Robert A. Riffle Jr
Dr. Julie Cieplik
Chicago Cat Clinic
Chippens Hill Vet Hospital LLC., Lawrence J. Linnetz, DVM
Clark Animal Care Center, LLP., Dr. Charpentier and Dr. Wakefield
Clarkson Veterinary Hospital
Coast Cat Clinic Ltd.
Coastal Cats Feline Health Care
Community Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Carol Lockhart

Companion Animal Clinic
Companion Animal Hospital
Dr. Maria T. Correa
Cosmic Cat Veterinary Clinic
Country Cat Clinic, Dr. Laurie Racey Winberry
Country Cat House II, Ms. Eileen L. Dalton
Creekside Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Jan S. Crowe
Dale R. Cats LLC.
DanMarc, Inc., Capital Cat Clinic
Dr. Lisa A. Degner
Deer Park Animal Hospital
Delmar Veterinary Associates, Dr. Laura E. Tenney
Dongan Hills Vet. Practice
Door to Door Pet Doctor, Wendy Zimmerman, DVM
Down Maine Veterinary Clinic
Doylestown Animal Medical, Dr. Dale D. Mantell
Eagle Rock Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Howard A. Miller
East Hilliard Vet Services, Thomas and Susan Klein
East Meadow Animal Hospital, Dr. William J. Thonsen
Easthampton Animal Hospital, James G. Hayden, DVM
Eastview Veterinary Clinic
Estates Animal Hospital, P.C., Barry Eisenkraft, DVM
Exclusively Cats Vet. Hospital
Feline Health
Feline Hospital, Dr. Kathleen J.K. Ternes
Dr. Elaine L. Felton
Felton Veterinary Services, PLLC
Dr. Jean A. Ferreri
Flower Valley Vet Clinic, Dr. James J. Burns
For Cats Only, Inc.
Four Paws of Palm Beach, LLC.
Gaithersburg Square Veterinary Clinic, Ms. Bonnie Hileman
Gardens Veterinary Hospital
Garrison Animal Care Clinic

Gearhart Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Martha S. Gearhart
Georgetown Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Carol Gamez and Dr. Stanley Truffini
Dr. Eric Germaine
German Flatts Vet Clinic, Dr. Chuff and Dr. O'Neil
Dr. Raphael Z. Gilbert
Glenora Cat Clinic, Dr. Gayle McDonald
Godspeed Animal Care
Dr. Damon R. Goldstein
Goshen Animal Clinic
Green Pond Animal Care Center
Greenpoint Veterinary Hospital
Greenridge Veterinary, Dr. Alvin J. Vogel
Harlingen Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Christine A. Newman
Hartsdale Veterinary
Dr. Emi Hayashi
Dr. Raymond S. Hayes
Dr. Robert L. Henrickson
Dr. William Henry Herbold III
Highland Animal Hospital, Dr. Kathryn J. Smith
Dr. Ellen Burd Hikes
Holden Veterinary Clinic
Home Veterinary Services, Dr. Jeanne Baines
Dr. Andrea W. Jacobson
Dr. Linda E. Jacobson
Jacobson Veterinary Clinic
Jeffersonville Animal Hospital
Dr. Gregory A. John
Just Cats Veterinary Clinic, P.C.
Kendall Animal Clinic, Inc.
Kensington Veterinary Hospital
Dr. Barbara Kingsborough
Kingstowne Cat Clinic
Kitty Clinic
Larchmont Animal Hospital, Dr. Mark P. Helfat
Layhill Animal Hospital, Dr. Robert A. Adelman
Lexington Animal Hospital, Dr. Sheryl H. Carls



Linwood Animal Hospital, Dr. Richard E. McCarthy
Lombard Animal Clinic
Dr. Jay I. Luger
Lums Pond Animal Hospital
Dr. Kevin G. Lynch
Lyndon Veterinary Clinic, PLLC, Dr. Eric M. Davis
Main Street Cat Hospital LLC.
Manchester Veterinary Clinic
Manetto Hill Animal Clinic, P.C.
Manhattan Cat Specialists, Inc.
Manheim Pike Vet Hospital Inc., Dr. Marc H. Rovner
Manlius Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Jennifer Goetz
Marsh Hospital for Animals, Dr. Mark Milwicki
Dr. Michelle Z. Mason
Matawan Animal Hospital, Dr. Barry W. Kopp
Mattapoissett Animal Hospital
Matunis Vets Inc., Eagle Animal Hospital
Mayfair Animal Hospital
Meadowridge Veterinary Hospital
Medway Animal Hospital, Dr. Michael P. Robinson
Middle River Vet. Hospital
Middletown Veterinary Hospital
Milford Animal Hospital, Dr. Richard A. Dubensky
Milford Animal Hospital, P.C., Dr. David L. McGee
Dr. Alexander J. Miller
Millhopper Vet Medical Center, Richard Goldman, DVM

Morrisville Cat Hospital, PLLC., Dr. Wendy Simpson
Mt. Holly Animal Hospital, P.C.
Nancy L. Suska, DVM
Nanuet Animal Hospital
Naponoch Animal Hospital, Dr. James F. Cone Jr
National Veterinary Associates
New England Cat Care LLC.
North Country Vet Services P.C., Dr. Courtland R. Howard
Northern Tier Vet Clinic, Dr. Philip C. Saxton
Northlake Veterinary Surgery
Norwell Veterinary Hospital
Norwin Veterinary Hospital, Harvey R. Bendix, VMD
Oakton-Vienna Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Charles W. Blevins
Oradell Animal Hospital, Inc., Dr. Gary W. Johnson
Otterkill Animal Hospital, Dr. James C. Zgoda
Park Ridge Animal Hospital, P.A., Dr. Donna Manderino
Pet Partners
Dr. Russell J. Petro
Pleasant Plains Animal Hospital
Dr Erika M. Praul
RIB, INC., New Milford Animal Hospital
Ridge Animal Hospital LLP., Dr. Monti
Roanoke Animal Hospital
Rockledge Veterinary Clinic P.C., Francie L. Rubin, VMD
Russell Animal Hospital, P.A., Dr. Claire S. Cahill

Honor Roll
OF GIVING 2012

Ruxton Animal Hospital, Dr. Michael H. Kaplan
Sakonnet Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Kenneth E. Rix
Salmon Brook Veterinary Hospital
Saugerties Animal Hospital, Dr. Howard W. Rothstein
Dr. Alan B. Schreier
Schulhof Animal Hospital, Dr. Curt C. Benyei
Dr. Kim A. Slade
Sleepy Hollow Animal Hospital, Dr. Brian Green
Dr. Peter H. Soboroff
Somers Point Veterinary Hospital
South Arundel Vet Hospital
South Town Veterinary Hospital, Edward J. Gschrey, Jr., DVM
South Windsor Vet. Clinic LLC., Dr. Carole R. Werkhoven
Springville Animal Hospital, Dr. Carl L. Eisenhard
St. Francis Animal Clinic, Inc., Dr. Gafur Memon
Stack Hospital For Pets, Dr. Marcia Ziegler
Storybook Farm Veterinary Hospital, Ann Marie Lill, DVM
Suffield Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Ann L. Huntington Mickelson
Sunbury Veterinary Clinic
Sunset Pet Hospital, Inc.
Dr. Alan M. Tausz
The Cat Care Clinic, Dr. Elaine W. Mitchell
The Cat Doctor, Dr. Meredith E Weller
The Cat Hospital at Palm Harbor, Dr. Robert A. Marrazzo
The Cat Practice
Three Village Veterinary Hospital, Dr. John C. DeVerna, Jr.
Thorn Avenue Animal Hospital, Dr. John Clauss
Thornwood Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Raymond J. Schuerger
Toll Gate Animal Clinic, LLC
Town & Country Animal Clinic

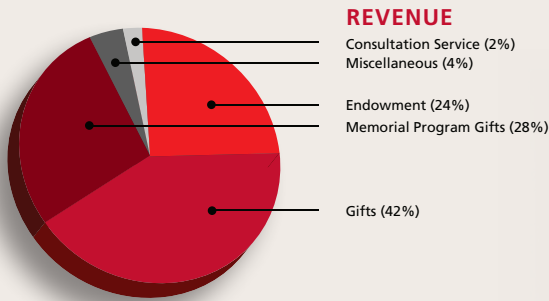
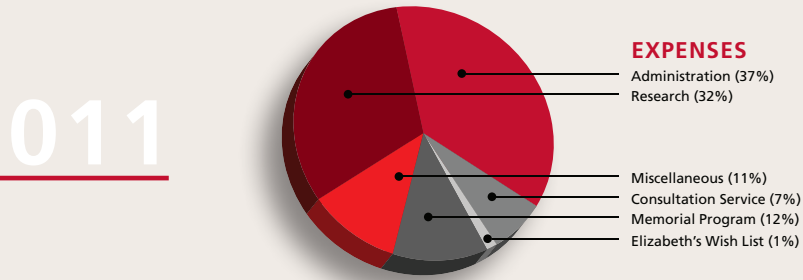
Honor Roll
OF GIVING 2012

Town & Country Hosp For Pets, Dr. Stack and Dr. Dodge
Dr. Stanley J. Truffini
University Animal Hospital, Dr. Marc S. Wallach
University Drive Vet Hospital, Michael K. Moss, VMD
Valley Vet. Partners LLC
VCA Antech, Inc., VCA Animal Hospitals
Vet On Wheels, LLC.
VetCor Professional Practices
Veterinary Oncology and Referral Center
Veterinary Practice Associates, DBA
Veterinary Specialty Hospital
Vienna Animal Hospital, Drs. Chafetz, Reid, and Westfall
Viking Community Animal Hospital, Angela M. Gambler
Visiting Vet, Dr. Anne S. Rice, DVM
Wantagh Animal Hospital P.C., Dr. Glenn Anderson
West Chelsea Veterinary, Dr. Michael E. Farber
West Park Veterinary Services, Dr. Keri Mackey
Dr. Elaine Wexler-Mitchell
White Pine Veterinary Clinic
Winsted Hospital for Animals
Dr. Michael Woltz
Woodbury Animal Hospital, P.C.
Woodhaven Veterinary Clinic
Dr. Gary A. Yarnell
Dr. Harold M. Zweighaft

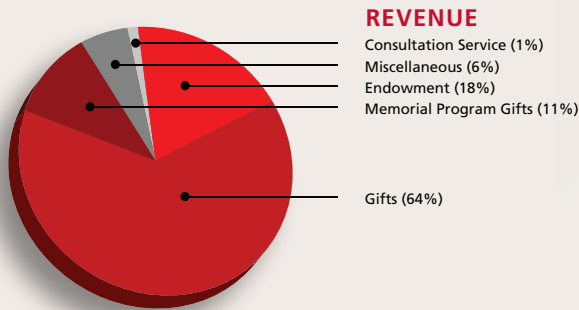
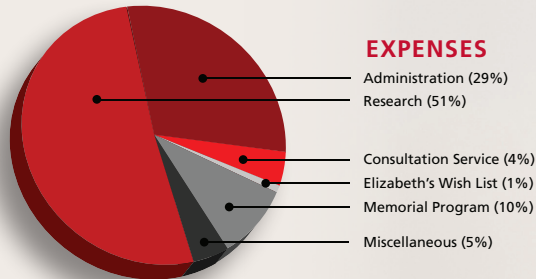


Financial
SUMMARY

2011



2012



Membership
AND PUBLICATIONS

Membership

For veterinarians and cat lovers interested in receiving the most up-to-date feline health information while supporting the Feline Health Center, we offer affordable membership plans geared toward professionals and individuals. Your membership dollars help support outreach and educational materials, including informative brochures on feline health issues, CatWatch newsletter, and the Camuti Consultation Service. You can also give the gift of membership to a friend or colleague. For more information, please visit www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc and click on Membership or call 607/253-3093.

Videos and Publications

The Feline Health Center, in collaboration with Cornell's Partners in Animal Health, developed a series of popular videos offering step-by-step instructions on topics including administering medication, brushing your cat's teeth, and providing care to cats with diabetes and cancer. Videos are available at www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc by clicking on Health Information and In-Depth Health Topics.

Educational brochures can also be found on the same web pages. A limited number are available as a benefit of membership, and veterinarians can order in packs of 50. Please call 607/253-3001 for ordering information.





Opportunities **FOR SUPPORT**

Endowment Gifts

Help build the foundation for the future. Endowment gifts are managed as part of Cornell's long-term investment pool, generating funds to be used in perpetuity in support of the Feline Health Center. The current minimum to establish a named endowment is \$100,000, providing a lasting tribute and perpetual support to the Center.

Named Graduate Scholarship

A minimum gift of \$100,000 will endow a scholarship for a future feline practitioner at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. Financial aid can make a significant difference in the life and future career of a vet student by helping to alleviate the burden of loan debt.

Named Clinical Research Fund

A named clinical research fund for \$100,000 minimum will generate income to help support the Feline Health Center's competitive grants to faculty at the Baker Institute for Animal Health and the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell. Research funds aid in the investigation of underlying causes of feline diseases and discovery of prevention, treatments, and cures. Research conducted by many of the nation's leading scientists at Cornell often has implications for human health as well.

Named Residency

Residency training prepares post-doctoral students for careers in highly skilled fields such as oncology, neurology, surgery and other fields that have a significant impact on feline medicine. A minimum gift of \$1,000,000 can endow a named residency and provide income for the stipends and grants that accompany this intensive two-year training program.

Your support provides the key to the success of the Feline Health Center. Everything from educational brochures for owners to scholarships that provide assistance to the next generation of feline practitioners is made possible by contributions from cat owners, veterinarians, alumni, and friends. We are truly grateful for the support of friends for our efforts to improve the health and well-being of cats everywhere. Ways to express your commitment at any level are included below. For additional opportunities, please contact the development office at 607/256-5645 or Lps8@cornell.edu.

Planned Gifts

Planned gifts provide financial resources for the Feline Health Center's future while you receive immediate tax benefits and/or income based on the investment type you choose. If you would like to discuss any of these options below, please contact Cornell's Office of Gift Planning at 1-800-377-2177.

Bequests

You can help ensure better health for future generations of cats by naming the Feline Health Center as a beneficiary in your will. Unrestricted bequests for general purposes provide the Center with flexibility to address the most pressing needs, while bequests to endow permanent, named funds at a minimum of \$100,000 provide perpetual support and serve as permanent tributes to loved ones. For suggested bequest language or for more information, please contact Luanne M. Prosperi Stefanucci at Lps8@cornell.edu. This option allows you to make the Feline Health Center the remainder beneficiary of a trust you create during your lifetime while retaining income for yourself and / or that of a second beneficiary. You receive an immediate tax deduction when you create your trust.

Trusts

By establishing a trust, donors either name the Center as the trust beneficiary or place assets in a trust fund that will generate income for the Center over a specified term.

Stocks

Through your gift of appreciated securities, stocks, or bonds to the Center, you may avoid some or all of the capital gains tax by deducting their full current market value as a charitable contribution.

Cash Gifts

Current use unrestricted cash contributions provide the financial resources necessary for the Feline Health Center to address the needs of cats and provide owners and veterinarians with the latest health information. To make a gift, please visit our website at www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc and click on How You Can Help at the left side of the page or call 607/253-3001.

James R. Richards, Jr. Memorial Fund for Feline Health

Contributions are also welcome to the James Richards Memorial Fund, which was established with donations given in memory of Dr. Richards – the second director of the Feline Health Center – by friends and colleagues following his death in 2007. Income from this fund honors the outstanding contributions of Dr. Richards to the field of feline medicine. The fund helps offset the cost of three feline-focused lectures each year featuring leaders in feline health sharing the latest information with current and future veterinarians.

Dr. Louis J. Camuti Memorial Endowment Fund

Dr. Camuti, a well-respected veterinarian in the New York metropolitan area, was the first in the country to devote his practice entirely to cats. Legendary for his 60+ years of house calls to feline patients, friends honored his memory through the creation of this fund following his death in 1981. The Camuti Fund helps defray the cost of the telephone consultation service, also welcome.

Memorial Program for Feline Companions

As every cat lover knows, the loss of a feline companion can be devastating. Thoughtful gifts to the Feline Health Center are a wonderful way to honor the memory of a beloved cat. Gifts can be made online at www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc or call 607/253-3001. Veterinarians interested in participating in the FHC Memorial Program are encouraged to contact Luanne M. Prosperi Stefanucci, Assistant Director of Donor Relations, at Lps8@cornell.edu for more information.



The work of the Cornell Feline Health Center would not be possible without the support of our generous donors or our dedicated staff.
Thank you!

2011-2012
STAFF & CONSULTANTS

Dr. Colin Parrish, Director

Dr. Bruce Kornreich, Associate Director, Education & Outreach

Katie Jacoby Stockwell, Administrative Manager

Luanne M. Prosperi Stefanucci, Assistant Director, Development & Donor Relations

Danielle Hartman

Don Personius

Jacki Rose

Sheryl Thomas

Dr. Chris Bellezza

Dr. Ryane Englar

Dr. Marnie FitzMaurice

Dr. Paul Maza

Dr. Pam Perry

Dr. Mia Slotnick

Dr. Angharad Waite





To improve the health and well-being of cats everywhere by:

- Finding ways of preventing and curing diseases of cats by conducting and sponsoring breakthrough feline health studies
- Educating veterinarians and cat owners about feline health by providing timely medical information and by promoting public understanding and awareness of feline issues
- Aiding veterinarians when new or unknown feline diseases occur.

www.vet.cornell.edu/FHC
607.253.3414